

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chairman  
The Honorable Christopher S. Bond, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Bond:

As you near consideration of the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge the Subcommittee to maintain the Federal government's commitment to community development programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and support \$4.185 billion in formula funds for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program.

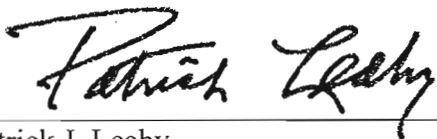
We thank you for your past support of this vital program. For Fiscal Year 2009, Congress included \$3.9 billion for the Community Development Fund, including more than \$3.6 billion for CDBG formula grants. This significant investment was complemented with an additional \$1 billion for CDBG in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additional funding this year will enable communities to continue vital rehabilitation and improvement projects that create local jobs.

The CDBG program is the centerpiece of the Federal government's efforts to help approximately 1,200 entitlement cities, urban counties, and States meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities. It is one of the most effective Federal domestic programs to revitalize communities with proven results. The program helps fund a wide range of activities, including homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation, public improvements, public services, and economic development projects.

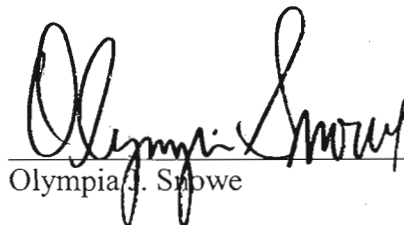
According to HUD, more than 95 percent of fiscal year 2008 CDBG funding went to activities principally benefitting low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, in fiscal year 2008, CDBG housing projects -- including financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and other existing homeowners -- assisted nearly 150,000 households. CDBG funding also helped create and retain more than 31,000 jobs and provided vital public services to over 13 million persons.

Funding CDBG formula grants at \$4.185 billion will maintain the progress that cities, counties and states across the nation are making to improve the quality of life for all citizens, particularly low-income families. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support of community development and revitalization.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Leahy



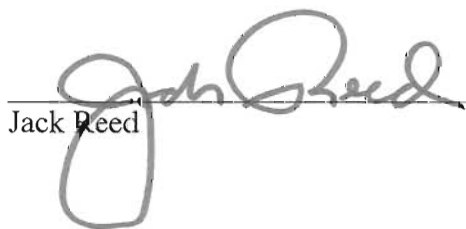
Olympia J. Snowe



Christopher J. Dodd



David Vitter



Jack Reed



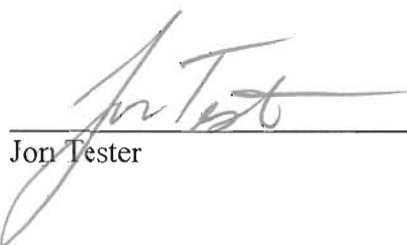
Barbara A. Mikulski



Herb Kohl



Frank R. Lautenberg



Jon Tester



Debbie Stabenow



Daniel K. Akaka




Charles E. Schumer

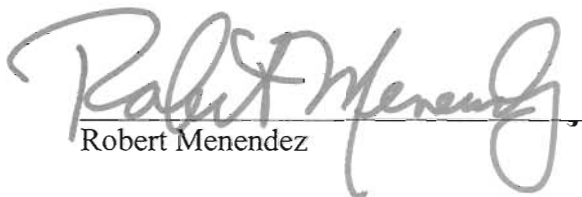



Sheldon Whitehouse



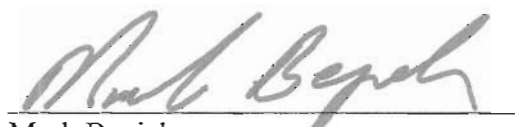
Benjamin L. Cardin

  
Jeanne Shaheen

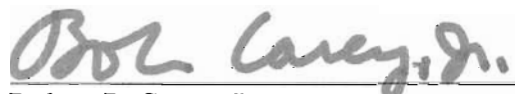
  
Robert Menendez

  
Joseph I. Lieberman

  
Edward M. Kennedy

  
Mark Begich


  
Carl Levin

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.

  
Ron Wyden

  
Blanche L. Lincoln

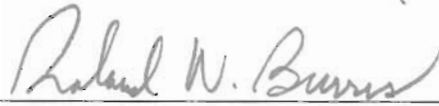
  
Maria Cantwell

  
Richard J. Durbin

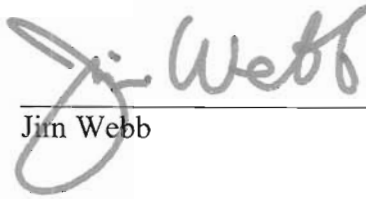
  
Barbara Boxer



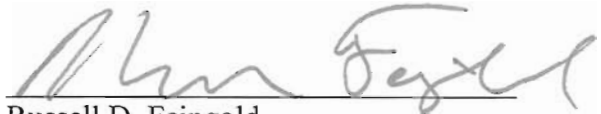
Sherrod Brown



Roland W. Burris



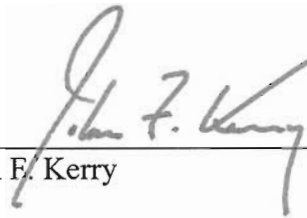
Jim Webb



Russell D. Feingold



Bernard Sanders



John F. Kerry



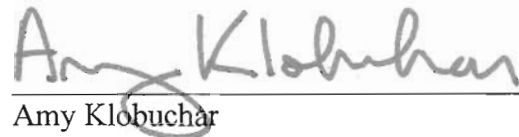
Kirsten E. Gillibrand




Tom Udall



Tim Johnson



Amy Klobuchar



Max Baucus



John D. Rockefeller, IV

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Bill Nelson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Harkin", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Tom Harkin

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Kaufman", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Edward E. Kaufman